ist December A BILL AGAINST SWEARING

On the discussion of certain amendments m a Bill against usual and common swearing, one Mr Glasscock said that swearing was a thing moral and touching the soul and therefore fitted to be spoken of in a pulpit than in a Parliament, and if a man regard not the denunciation of God upon swearers, a pain of IDS as is set down in the Bill would not make him refrain Besides the penalty is to be taken upon condition before a Justice of peace A justice of peace, saith he, is a living creature, yet for half a dozen of chickens will dispense with a whole dozen of penal statutes There be ' basket Justices ' and * idol Justices' and unless sacrifice be offered them they know you not [c] If a warrant come from the Lords of the Council/ quoth he, 'to levy a hundred men, he will levy two hundred, and what with chopping and choosing, he'll gain a hundred pounds by the bargain Nay, if he be to send out a warrant upon a man's request to have any fetched in upon suspicion of felony or the like, he will write the warrant himself, and you must put 2s in his pocket as his clerk's fee (when God knows he keeps but two or three hinds) for his maintenance Why we have passed here Bills of swearing, going to church, good ale and drunkenness , this is as good to them as if you had given them a subsidy and two fifteenths *

JONSON'S APOLOGY

Jonson hath written an apologetical dialogue to his *Poetaster* >
censuring the world that would prefer his enemies to himself
But that these base and beggarly conceipts
Should carry it, by the multitude of voices,
Against the most abstracted work, oppos'd
To the stuff d nostrils of the drunken

rout!
O this would make a learn'd and liberal soul
To rive his stained quill up to the back,
And damn his long-watch* d labours to the fire,—
Things that were born when none but the still night
And his dumb candle saw his pinching throes,—
Were not his own free merits a more crown
Unto his travails than their reeling claps

Declareth also that since the comic muse hath proved so